

JOKES ARE HEARD WITH DEATH NEAR

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Blend With War in
Europe.

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TO ENCOURAGE WIT

Several Funny Things, However,
Make Their Way From Trenches
to Outside World.

BY HERBERT COREY.

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PARIS, August 27.—Humor does not blend with war. Soldiers may be perfectly cheerful—almost happy—as they are on the Lorraine front, and still they rarely make jokes worth repeating. Killing other men and risking being killed does not encourage wit. The attitude of the average soldier is perfectly expressed by a cartoon in one of the French weeklies. Four soldiers are seen sitting about a box in a trench on which they have been playing cards. A shell has just blown the trench to bits. The air is filled with fragments. One soldier has turned to the wreck. The very lines of his back tell of his fright. One of the others—a hairy veteran—glances at him with disgust.
"Well," he growls, "are we playing cards—or are we not?"
Now and then something is told that has the germ of laughter in it. A typical story of this sort is of the English Tommy who brought up on the station platform at Amiens. He was sore and dust stained and tired. A friend offered him a cigarette.
"What are you thinking of?" asked the friend. Mr. Atkins rubs his head to brighten his thought.
"I'm thinking," he answered slowly, "that maybe we'll 'ave to give the blighters 'ome rule."

A Soldier's Funny Story.
Generally a soldier's stories have something cynical about them. Bloodshed has become commonplace to them. Death occurs as an incident of daily life. I know of a young French captain, the brother-in-law of a prince, who came home on leave the other day. He roared with laughter as he told his yarn:
"Almost every day the Germans shell our trenches," said he. "Then they charge. But before they charge they always shorten their range to land on our fire trenches—and they always drop their shells into their own front trenches. The sides are very close together there. We know this so well that the moment their fire on our trenches slackens up we jump up, to see the shells drop into their own men, arms and legs and everything are tossed into the air. It is excruciatingly funny. We cheer and wave our caps." Often, of course, the humor is unconscious, as in the case of the English soldier Charlie Williams told about the other day. The Englishman was commenting on the qualities of his French allies. Those who have visited England know the difficulty one sometimes finds in having a "crossed" check cashed.
"They gets a h'penny a dye," said he, "side every ten dyes with a crossed check—and still they fights."

Now and then the humor, being still unconscious, is not furnished by the soldier. Will Crooks, the labor leader, who recently visited the English trenches, told on his return to London of the activities of an evangelical minister. "Every time a soldier's name appears in the papers," a soldier said to Crooks, "he gets a package of gospel tracts. A favorite tract is called in black letters: 'Soldier, if you were shot dead this morning, would you go to hell or hell?' If the people at 'ome cannot do better than that they'd best not send us anything."

Could He Hit a Church?

One of the stories one most often hears in Paris is that of the gunner in charge of a battery of seventy-fives. Snipers had been at work in a neighboring village. Finally they were run to earth in the village church.
"Can you hit the church?" the gunner was asked.
"Most certainly, my officer," he replied. "I specialize in churches."

He gets four good ones, and the church and the sniper dissolved together. Afterward the officer wondered why the gunner meant by his remark.
"Why did you say you specialize in churches?" he asked.
"I am a priest," was the grim reply. That isn't told with any joking or derisive motive, in spite of the frequently expressed belief that the French are an irreverent people. Fully 20,000 priests are serving in the French army and many of them have won crosses or promotion. The French are proud of them. They speak of their fighting parsons with affection. One never hears a fear against church or priest nowadays. The 20,000 in the trenches have conquered a nation.

Always, it appears, one returns to Tommy Atkins. He not only laughs at things more often than the men of other nations. It is merely that an American is more apt to hear of them. One story is of an English general feeling his way down a fire trench on a dark night, hunting for a colonel named Jones.

"Jones," he called, half under his breath. There was no reply from the half-seen form crouched at the loopholes, rifle in hand. He walked on, calling "Jones" in louder tones. Finally his patience was exhausted.
"I say, Jones," he shouted. A cockney voice rose from the muddy ditch.
"Blasted old blighter," growled Mr. Atkins. "W'y don't you shut your bloody 'ead?"

Anxious About Mervale.

There is real fun, too, in another of Will Crooks' stories, of the man at one end of a trench during a hot engagement. After each storm of shell had passed a voice rose from the other end.
"Are you all right, Mervale?" it asked anxiously. "Not hurt, are you?"
Mervale finally became curious over this quite unprecedented interest in his welfare.
"Why are you all the time asking if I'm all right?" he asked. The reply was a satisfying one.
"I've drawn you in a sweep."
It recalls the story of the new recruit who insisted upon joining a cavalry regiment. The recruiting sergeant wanted to know why.
"I understand 'ores, that's w'y," said the recruit. "Hi backed a winner and five seconds later I was out." One suspects a Frenchman who recently died of being inspired half by real friendship and half by a freakish desire to be revenged upon an unappreciative village. He left his entire fortune, amounting to \$10,000, to one Paul, a soldier.
"I desire to show my gratitude to him," stated the decedent, "because for many years he has listened patiently to the story of how I lost my right arm in the war of 1870. My only condition is that if he lives through the war he shall occasionally visit this village and relate some of his own experiences." This yarn may be fifty ended by the story of the London stockbroker who became an officer in one of the new regiments. One day he was quite unexpectedly called upon to take charge of a drill squad, and stage fright overcame him. He wished to tell his men to "mark time," but to save him he could not remember the technical phrase. They watched his slow enunciation with interest, until he finally broke a distressing silence and roared out his order.
"Stamp," he cried, "and stamp fast."

The Palais Royal opens

First---The Corset

Corsets are very different this autumn—with bust $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches higher; waist 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches smaller; skirt 1 to 2 inches shorter. The Palais Royal "Dress-up" campaign opens with every reliable maker represented and with famous experts to advise and fit the new models. In new and enlarged parlors—third floor of the new building.

"Bon Ton" Corsets

—and "Royal Worcester" Corsets.

For tomorrow's "Opening" these Corsets are to be honored with special mention—because they most fully and satisfactorily represent the new vogue. The prices of the "Bon Ton" are from \$3.50 to \$10.00, and will be found to equal French Corsets at \$5.50 to \$15.00. The "Royal Worcester," at \$1.00 to \$3.00, best represent the new styles at these prices.



850. Average figure. 11½-inch bust. 6-inch waist. A smart and comfortable model constructed to perfectly control the figure with full diaphragm and high bust. Elastic lacing in skirt front. Long skirt and high back. White coutil. Sizes 19 to 30. **\$3.50**

873. Average figure. 11-inch bust. 5½-inch waist. French boned and of exquisite design. Medium length skirt with elastic inserts. Handsomely trimmed. White coutil. Sizes 20 to 30. **\$5.00**



823. Average figure. 11½-inch bust. 6-inch waist. A smart and comfortable model constructed to perfectly control the figure with full diaphragm and high bust. Elastic lacing in skirt front. Long skirt and high back. White coutil. Sizes 19 to 30. **\$5.00**

822. Full figure. 10½-inch bust. 5½-inch waist. Elastic patch goes in back. White coutil. Sizes 25 to 36. **\$3.50**

Brassieres, 50c to \$3.50

The higher bust corsets made the brassiere a necessity—demonstrated by experts in third floor parlors. The advice and services of these experts, both regarding the corsets and brassieres, will be fully appreciated by Palais Royal visitors.

Illustrated by The Star Artist

The reliability of The Star applies to its artists, as in other matters, recognized by the Palais Royal and appreciated by its patrons.



Velvet Dress, with "corage" effect, as illustrated. All sizes here in Black, Navy and Brown. Bodice and sleeves of fine quality "Georgette Crepe." Collar and "equalettes" of velvet, handsomely embroidered. Back of bodice is shield effect, of self material, embroidered at waist line. Specially priced at **\$22.50**



Evening Dress as sketched is a copy of a \$285 imported model. Embroidered White Silk Georgette Crepe over white satin. Graduating circles of black sequins are offset by hand-embroidered bands. This dress is "smock-like" in design, forming in front and back panels with puffs of silk "tulle" at sides. Silk velvet in black forms the striking finish touches with circular buckles of French rhinestones. **\$57.50**



Silk Corded Velvet Coat as illustrated. Here in two-tone Browns, Greens, Slate Green and Black. A distinct street coat, lined throughout with a "Skinner's" satin. The deep belt of self material fastens in front with novelty buttons of bone. At neck is a genuine Pitch animal. Note that owing to the dye situation the colors will probably be very scarce later. Positive value, \$32.50. Here at **\$25.00**



Chiffon Broadcloth Suit as sketched. Note that all Palais Royal Broadcloth Suits are guaranteed spot proof, no matter at what price. Illustration shows a "Field Mouse" colored suit, semitinted effect coat which has double French seams in envelope effect at back, white broadcloth showing between seams. Black and white velvet collar and cuffs, with Kolinsky fur trimming. Skirt is yoked to fit with that of coat, double French seams showing white broadcloth. Specially priced at **\$39.50**

Evening Dresses

One of the many reproductions of expensive imported models. Many of silk chiffon, in white, maize and ciel blue. Note the silk underslip and the deep lace flounce at hem of skirt, the Paris feature of today, exactly imitated in these dresses at only \$22.50. Third Floor—6 elevators.

Headquarters for \$25 Suits

The Palais Royal does not sell twice as many \$25.00 suits as any other establishment in Washington without good reasons. Here's one reason—each suit is lined throughout with silk peau de cygne guaranteed for two seasons' wear. Another—now that dyes are doubtful the Palais Royal's guarantee of fast colors counts, especially as an unusually large quantity of rich new shades are shown. Another—the all-wool materials are sponged before making up, assuring permanently perfect lines.

400 New Suits Await Inspection at \$25

Women's Sizes, 36 to 55 Bust; Misses', 14 to 20 Years.

The new styles of Box Coat, Russian Blouse, semi-fitted and waist line Suits, also reproductions of extreme Paris and London coat styles. Materials include chiffon broadcloth, guaranteed spotproof; gabardine, serge, poplin and a great variety of new mixtures. The tailoring is the main reason for the popularity of the Palais Royal \$25.00 Suits, and the fact that should any require alterations they are made under the supervision of one of Washington's most expert tailors.

New Coats

\$19.50 to \$65.00 for Plush Coats. Set plush is absolutely reliable as wear and dye. See the new styles here, up to \$65.

\$16.98 for Silk Corduroy Coats. Skirt in satin lined; in black, navy and brown.

\$9.95 for Misses' Coats of all-wool mixtures new styles in sizes 14 to 20 years.

\$5.00 and up for "Best yette" Raincoats guaranteed water proof.

Third Floor—6 elevators.

Tell "Him"

The autumn-winter season opens here tomorrow with complete stocks, including the following extraordinary values:

SUITS—The college and young business men will find suits at \$19.50 as good as usual at \$25 and better than usual \$20 suits at **\$14.50**

TOP COATS—Chesterfield Overcoats, black or Oxford finished waist—cut on the accepted lines—with slightly form-fitting back. Cloth facing or silk to edge, as preferred. **\$16.50**

SHIRTS—The new autumn-winter styles are all here. Fit guaranteed—which means the purchase price refunded if proving unsatisfactory after wearing. Prices, \$2.50 and **\$1.00**

NECKWEAR—The new season is to open tomorrow with guaranteed \$1 grade of Silk Four-in-Hands at **65c**

The usual 65c Cravats, with patented "Slip Easy" bands and open ends. To be only **49c**

The Silk Four-in-Hands standard at 50c are to be only **29c**

The New Men's Shop entrance is on G street, two doors east of Eleventh.

The New Blouse Shop

On Third Floor—Facing Elevators.

Imported

At \$10.00, \$12.95 and \$14.95 are the New Blouses of various silks, in styles and colors to wear with the new suits. These are exclusive, and duplicates of them are not to be shown in Washington.



Two of the new \$2.95 Blouses are pictured above; others are of Georgette Crepe and Crepe de Chine; tiny tucks, dainty hemstitching or fine gathers; sleeves are long, some with smart turn-back cuffs, others plain finished with one large button, high or low collar, which ever is preferable. Pale pink and white.

Two of the new \$5.00 Blouses are pictured above, others include rich silk taffeta or soft faille models, with large collar; others of crepe de chine, in pink, blue and flesh, with latest moment collar; black and white tie. A lovely white crepe de chine model has a profusion of fine tucks and dainty hemstitching, smart collar effect, the cuffs finished with hemstitching.

Third Floor—6 Elevators.

The Girls

Third Floor Shop.

Girls of 14 to 20 years have their separate department, as do those from 6 to 14 years. Also a distinct shop for the baby and little children.

DRESSES for girls of 6 to 14. Peter Thompson and other models, of serge in plain colors and novelty cloths in plaids, checks, etc. Special at **\$2.98**

COATS for girls of 2 to 6 years and boys of 1 to 3 years are of corduroy, zibeline and chinchilla cloth; double breasted, plain and belted. Special **\$2.50**

ROMPERS in new and better styles with high neck and long sleeves, for autumn and winter wear **46c**

COATS for the baby, of all wool cashmere and batiste, made with circular cape, embroidered and scalloped.

One of the prize displays in connection with this "Dress-up" campaign is the children's window. See this window before going in the store.